REPORT

OF THE

NATIONAL VACCINE ESTABLISHMENT,

FOR THE YEAR

1816;

Dated 15th May 1817.

ROYAL COLL. PHYS. EDIN.

TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

LORD VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH,

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT,

&c. &c. &c.

NATIONAL VACCINE ESTABLISHMENT,
Leicester Square, 15th May 1817.

My Lord,

We have the honour to report to Your Lordship, that in the course of the last year, a considerable Augmentation has occurred in the number of persons Vaccinated within the Bills of Mortality, by the Surgeons of this Establishment; the amount at the ordinary and extraordinary Stations having been 7,771; and 44,376 charges of Vaccine Lymph have been distributed from these Stations. We have also to report from the Statements of our extraordinary and corresponding Vaccinators, that 47,874 persons have been Vaccinated in various parts of the Kingdom, 31,689 of whom are distinctly stated to have undergone Vaccination from January to December 1816; of the remaining 16,185, a large proportion were Vaccinated during the year, but not all of them, as a few of our corresponding Vaccinators, in distant parts of the country, have made their reports to us for a succession of years collectively.

The Board has made a considerable addition to the number of extraordinary and corresponding Vaccinators in different parts of Great Britain and Ireland, and in the West Indies, by which means the Benefits of Vaccination are extended under its immediate direction. A Diploma has been formed, by order of the Board, which we have conferred on all those gentlemen employed by us in Vaccination.

The great importance of affording to Practitioners, at a distance from the Metropolis, the opportunity of an immediate and constant supply of Lymph, is strikingly apparent, from their inability to keep up such a regular succession of Patients as would at all times furnish them with it; and it is this Board principally which can supply the renewed demand.

In the case also of Small Pox breaking out in any particular district, it is of the utmost consequence that no time should be lost in procuring Vaccine Lymph, in order to stop the destructive ravages of that disease: to forward so desirable an object, the utmost facility is afforded by this Board.

As a proof of the progress of Vaccination in this Country, the Board has to notice the establishment of a Royal Vaccine Institution in the counties of Bucks, Berks,

 and

and Somerset. Vaccination is also regularly practised at several Provincial Hospitals and Dispensaries.

We have the pleasure of again acknowledging the obligations we owe to several disinterested individuals, particularly to the Reverend Mr. Reid, of Leekhamstead, Bucks, who continues to support the cause with so much zeal, that there remains scarcely an individual in his neighbourhood who has not undergone Vaccination.

In the Report made by this Board in the last Session, it was stated, that no instance of Small Pox had occurred at Aberystwith, or at Bawtry. We have the additional satisfaction to state, that at East Dereham that disease has not been known for many years. At Kingston in Surrey, and its neighbourhood, it has not made any progress for eleven years. We have a letter from Slaithwaite near Huddersfield, stating that that neighbourhood has been kept entirely free from Small Pox for nine years past; and from Newtown, Limavaddy, (Londonderry,) we have information that it is rarely heard of in that part of the country.

It may not be unworthy of remark, that in the Second Weekly Bill of Mortality for September last, not a death is mentioned as having been occasioned by the Small Pox,—a circumstance which has not happened for two centuries: though we have even now to lament, that the number of deaths by that disease, within the Bills of Mortality during the last year, amounts to 653.

We feel it our duty to state that, in the town of Ulverston, during the spring of last year, various instances occurred of Patients having had the Small Pox after they had been Vaccinated; for the most part, however, it was that mitigated form of the disease which marks the previous Vaccination: in all the cases it was mild, and in no instance fatal. The occurrence of these failures was confined to a very limited district; and as such events have since ceased, although great numbers of other individuals, previously Vaccinated, were exposed to the Variolous contagion, we are of opinion that the failures were owing to the employment of Lymph in succession from a Vesicle which had not gone through its stages with perfect regularity; and that even the imperfect Vaccine Vesicle thus produced, has very generally the power of rendering the human frame susceptible of none but the mitigated form of Small Pox. A few cases of similar failures have been reported, and most of these in London have been visited by the Director of this Establishment, who states them to have arisen from imperfect Vaccination.

That failures very rarely occur when Vaccination is well conducted, the registers from our different stations abundantly prove. The Summary at present is, that since the foundation of this Establishment in the year 1809, there have been Vaccinated in our Stations within the Bills of Mortality, 34,369 persons. Of which number it has hitherto been intimated that only four had the Small Pox; forming one failure in 8,592 cases. It is not improbable that, in the same number of persons, an equal or greater proportion might have had the Small Pox twice; and it should not be forgotten that when 34,369 persons were inoculated with the Small Pox, as the proportion of deaths in good practice amounted, by different estimates, to one in two or three hundred, between 114 and 171 persons would have perished, and the effects of the diseases with which many others would have been afflicted, as the consequence of the previous disease, would have been most calamitous.

The intelligence with which we have been furnished from Foreign Countries, affords a very pleasing picture of the continued advances made in Vaccination.

From the Report of the Central Committee at Paris, it appears that in 72 Departments, 251,116 persons have been Vaccinated in the preceding year, constituting more than one-third of the births.

By the favour of Count Fernan Nunez, Ambassador from H. M. Catholic Majesty, letters have been received from Dr. Francisco Xavier de Balmis, the Court Physician at Madrid. A succinct account is given of the expedition of this enterprising Physician, who was deputed by his Sovereign, and disseminated the Blessings of Vaccination through the whole of South America, by means of Vaccine Lymph supplied from England. He then embarked on the Pacific Ocean, sailed to the Phillipine Islands, and returned by Canton and Madeira, having circumnavigated the Globe for the most benevolent purpose. He is now occupied in restoring the practice

practice throughout Spain, where, owing to the late political events, it had fallen into neglect.

H. M. Faithful Majesty at the Brazils, has been pleased to transmit Thanks to Mr. Edwards, a corresponding Member of this Establishment, for introducing Vaccination into Rio de Janeiro, and a Vaccine Institution is founded by His Majesty in that City.

The Baron Von Fahrenberg has transmitted a review of the progress of Vaccination in the Grand Duchy of Baden, with Lymph supplied by this Board. From this communication we learn that Vaccination is now established by law throughout the Territories of the Grand Duke.

Governor Raffles has communicated that he successfully introduced Vaccination into Java, and that no essential prejudice opposes it in that Country, where the native Priests have become expert Vaccinators, and the lower orders are vaccinated as a measure of police.

From Canton, Dr. Alexander Pearson, Surgeon to the Factory of the East India Company, writes that Vaccination is very favourably received there, and is extended throughout the whole Province of Canton. He has sent us a Chinese Treatise on Vaccination, in the original, together with a Translation by Sir George Staunton.

A second remarkable letter has also been received from the Government of Hayti, dated November 18th, 1816.—" Le Roi à Monsieur James Moore, Directeur, &c." It expresses that the greatest success has attended Vaccination, with the Lymph supplied by this Board; and it states,—" Que la Vaccine est dans ce moment " repandue dans la Royaume, et nous éprouvons dèja les precieux bienfaits qui en " resultent; la Petite Vérole semble avoir fui de nos climats."

It appears, then, that Vaccination is progressive in every part of the World, is approved of by all enlightened men, and encouraged by every Government. The inestimable advantages, however, thus held out, are unfortunately in some degree counteracted, even by some Medical Practitioners, who obstinately continue to inoculate, and sanction the exposure of their Patients in public: And in some counties where the Medical gentlemen have actively opposed Inoculation, the mischief is widely extended by illiterate and itinerant Inoculators, who travel through the country, and for a trifling profit to themselves diffuse the Variolous Infection.

Of such persons repeated information has been transmitted to the Board, who have to regret their inability to inflict on them the punishment they deserve; we have, however, recommended to the parties complaining of such injurious practices, to adopt those legal remedies, which are, by means of the Prosecutions instituted by this Board, now known to exist for their suppression; and we have warned the Aggressors that they subject themselves to be indicted for a Criminal Offence.

J. LATHAM,
(President of the Royal College of Physicians.)

William Norris,
MASTER of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Arthur Daniel Stone,
Geo. Gilb' Currey,
A. Bain,
James Tattersall.
} CENSORS of the Royal College of Physicians.

James Earle,
G. Chandler.
} GOVERNORS of the Royal College of Surgeons.

By Order of the Board,
James Hervey, M. D.
Registrar.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX TO THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL VACCINE ESTABLISHMENT.

A Representation having been sent to Lord Viscount Sidmouth, from the Overseer of the Parish of *Saint Osyth* in *Essex*, that the Small Pox was spreading through the Town, and had attacked a great number of Persons who had previously been Vaccinated, his Lordship immediately referred this Statement to the Board of the National Vaccine Establishment. And more information of a similar kind, having been also transmitted by the Reverend Archdeacon *Jefferson*, a Magistrate of the County, and by several of the neighbouring Surgeons, the Board deputed their Director, *James Moore*, Esquire, to investigate this Business; who has made the following Report:

REPORT.

" Board Room, May 16th, 1817.

" I HAVE the honour to communicate to the Board of the National Vaccine Establishment, the conclusion of the inquiry at *Saint Osyth* in *Essex*, which was brought under their consideration by a Letter from the Under Secretary of State, dated the 24th April, and by intelligence of the same tenor received from other quarters.

It appeared by Letters from the Reverend Archdeacon *Jefferson*, a most zealous Magistrate, who is warmly interested for the safety of his Parishioners, that the terror which had seized them was augmenting, and that the confidence hitherto placed in Vaccination was much diminished, from a belief that numbers of those who had been Vaccinated, had now contracted the Small Pox; and although this was by no means Mr. Jefferson's opinion, yet he expressed an earnest wish that some competent person should be deputed by the Board to investigate the subject.

Having had the honour of being nominated by the Board to undertake this scrutiny, I proceeded to Saint Osyth, where, in order to render the inquiry more impartial and satisfactory, Mr. *Jefferson* had assembled the five following Surgeons of the neighbourhood; Mr. *Rogers* of Manningtree, Mr. *Nunn* of Colchester, Mr. *Osmond* of Thorpe, Mr. *Mason* and Mr. *Martin* of Saint Osyth. I was introduced to those gentlemen by the Archdeacon, who accompanied us to the residences of those who, according to report, had been attacked by the Small Pox subsequent to Vaccination; for it was resolved to scrutinize the facts upon the spot.

The first two Cases inquired into, were those of a Mrs. Fisher, and of Sarah Fisher. The one had been Vaccinated by a Lady, fifteen years ago, who had made one puncture, and afterwards, on the ninth day had opened the Vesicle. The other was Vaccinated by a travelling Quack, by a single puncture. These two Women had lately had the Small Pox in a very mild degree.

Susan Denny was Vaccinated by a Surgeon seven years ago, who had made one puncture. This young Woman has also had a very mild attack of Small Pox, which turned very early.

Mary and John West, who had likewise been Vaccinated by a single Vesicle each, at the same period, were both attacked lately with a Fever, followed by an eruption, which was believed to be Small Pox; but they had no Medical attendant, and both soon recovered.

Elizabeth and Maria Pilbury were inoculated by a regular Surgeon, two years ago, in both arms. These two Girls were taken ill a few weeks ago, and four or five spots broke out on each, which vanished in four days. As the Small Pox was prevailing, these Girls were suspected to have taken that malady.

Mrs. Fisk and her Daughter were Vaccinated twelve years ago, by some person in London, who had made one puncture in each, and never saw them afterwards: they only remember that their arms became sore, red and swollen. The Daughter lately inoculated herself with Small Pox, by means of a needle: this produced a smart Fever, and about twenty very small Pustules. The Mother took the Malady from her Daughter, and had a slight Illness, and twenty Pustules also.

Samuel

Samuel Fisk was Vaccinated seven years ago, by a Surgeon, who excited one Vesicle, which he afterwards opened. An old Lady judged it prudent to inoculate this Boy with Small Pox matter, and she produced a moderate crop of Pustules.

Harriet Seabrook and her Sister were vaccinated in both arms by a Surgeon. They were lately attacked with a Fever and a Rash. No Medical Gentleman saw them, consequently the nature of their Disease is unknown; but she soon got well.

Sarah Mason appears also to have been properly Vaccinated in both arms. Twelve days ago she became sick, and in four days a slight Eruption showed itself. This, from the prevailing terror, was also believed to be the Small Pox; but there is not the smallest vestige of the malady this day, which is the eighth since the Eruption.

Mr. Henry Wilson was Vaccinated sixteen years ago, and his brother Charles nine years ago. Each had one Vesicle, which in the youngest was opened. Both these Youths have had the Small Pox in a mitigated form; the Pustules amounted to about fifty or sixty, which turned early. Mr. Wilson, the father, being alarmed by these attacks, thought it safe to have his Daughter, and two other Children, inoculated with Small Pox matter from their brother Henry. These three had also been formerly Vaccinated by one puncture; they all, however, resisted the Small Pox infection; and only the punctured arms inflamed and festered.

John Vesey, a Servant in the same house, had been Vaccinated fourteen years before, by a Surgeon at Bradfield; one Vesicle was excited, which had been ruptured. This man contracted the Variolous Fever, which was attended with delirium for two days; the Eruption was copious though distinct, and proceeded regularly; the Pustules seemed to the attending Surgeon smaller than usual. This was a well-marked case of Small Pox; he has, however, recovered perfectly.

Sarah Pullen appears to have been properly Vaccinated in both arms. She caught a Fever a month ago, followed by an Eruption. No Medical person saw her; but from her own description, the disease was certainly not the Small Pox, of which there is not the slightest mark.

William Beaston was Vaccinated by one puncture about seven years ago; he lately had an Eruptive Fever, but consulted no one; he said he had a number of small hard Pimples, which arose about his head, which dried up in a week.

Lidia Barnes was inoculated in both arms; one Vesicle was excited in each, which were not opened. This Young Woman lately nursed a man during a most violent Variolous Fever, and was continually exposed to the infection; she at last contracted a Fever, which confined her three days to bed; an Eruption of about fifty spots were thrown out; but only four maturated and scabbed.

Mary Pooley had two regular Vesicles last January, only one of which had been opened. This Girl caught a Fever, apparently from her father, who had the Small Pox; she had twelve Spots, which did not maturate; they vanished in five or six days.

These were all the Cases which were heard of in PRIVATE DWELLINGS; but as unfavourable reports had also been spread respecting the POOR HOUSE, this was also visited.

We there found one young Woman and five Children, who had been Vaccinated; and we learnt from the Surgeon of the Workhouse, that a man who had never been Vaccinated had died lately in a dreadful state from the confluent Small Pox, yet not one of the others caught the infection; but the nurse said that one of the Boys indeed had a single Pimple.

These were the whole of the Cases we could hear of, and which Rumour had multiplied and magnified into wonderful importance.

THE Five Surgeons who assisted in the investigation, perceived clearly, that the circumstances which attended each case, preserved unimpeached the credit due to Vaccination, and they accordingly drew up and signed a Declaration to that effect, to be inserted in the county newspapers.

The incidents were, in fact, not of a novel description, as examples have before been occasionally communicated to the Board, of some persons who had been Vaccinated according to the original method, being subsequently affected with the Small Pox, though usually in a very mitigated form. But such occurrences are most uncommon among those who have been Vaccinated according to the last improved plan of practice promulgated by the Board. Some very rare instances of failures in Vaccination, as exceptions to a general law, may however be expected, as long as the Small Pox is prevalent; since it has been fully ascertained that, when the air is strongly impregnated with the infectious vapour of the Small Pox, some of those who have once had this disease, are attacked a Second time.

Upon the whole, it must be gratifying to the Board to find, that at St. Osyth, though some of the inhabitants had been Vaccinated by Ladies, and others by an itinerant Quack, yet none died of Small Pox during this epidemic, except a portion of those who were not Vaccinated.

James Moore, Director."

To the Board of the
National Vaccine Establishment."

By Order of the Board,
James Hervey, Registrar.

COPY OF THE DECLARATION ABOVE REFERRED TO,

Published in the Essex Newspapers.

VACCINATION.

" IN consequence of the reported failure of Vaccination in the parish of St. Osyth, We, the under-mentioned Medical gentlemen, on the recommendation of the Rev[d] Archdeacon *Jefferson*, and the Overseers of the same parish, have fully and deliberately, this day, investigated the matter; and beg, for the satisfaction of the Public at large, to make the following Declaration:

WE consider that the Small Pox has, in very few instances, supervened to Vaccination; but that in those instances, we are of opinion that Vaccination, most probably, had not been perfectly introduced into the system, owing simply to the nature and progress of the disease not having been at that time thoroughly understood.

In the remainder of the cases we have witnessed, we are of opinion, that although some cutaneous Eruptions had taken place, they were by no means decidedly Variolous, and if any of them did put on that appearance, they were of a mild and transient nature.

We therefore wish to Declare, that we shall feel anxious to continue to prosecute Vaccination, considering it one of the most valuable discoveries to Society.

James Moore, Esquire, Director of the National Vaccine Establishment, accompanied us during this investigation, and is precisely of the same opinion with us, and is to report the Particulars to the Institution upon his return to London.

George Rogers.
Roger Nunn.
Maurice Mason.
Thomas Osmond.
Robert Martin."

St. Osyth,
May 14, 1817."

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REPORT

OF THE

National Vaccine Establishment,

FOR THE YEAR

1816:

Dated 15th May 1817.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
12 *June* 1817.

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